GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:6
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2003
ECONOMIC PACKAGE FOR J & K
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken any decision to grant an economic package to the people of Kashmir by way of generating employment opportunities including jobs for the over-aged youth, and other means for bringing the misguided youth who have taken to guns and militancy into the national mainstream;

(b) if so, the details of the package and the funds to be provided therefor indicating the Central aid to be extended; and

(c) the progress/achievement made after the announcement of the economic package to Kashmir so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERS(PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE ANSWER TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.(FOR ANSWER ON 18.02.2003 REGARDING ECONOMIC PACKAGE FOR J&K

(a) to (b) The Prime Minister during his visit to Jammu & Kashmir on 23.5.2002 announced a package for over Rs. 6000.00 crore for `employment, rail and road development, relief & Security` for J&K.The main schemes/projects covered in the package comprise railways, roads, development of textiles, Agri-export zones for apples & walnuts, development of horticulture, eco-restoration of degraded catchment areas of Chenab and Jhelum, Border Area Development Programme, security measures like raising of two India Reserve Battalions (IRB), incentives for Special Operations Group, better training of and weaponry to the J&K Volunteer Force, bette weaponry to the Volunteer members of Village Defence Committees and relief measures like enhancement in norms pertaining to relief for border migrants and Kashmiri migrants and provision of new tents & common civic amenities for Border migrants in J&K, upgrading police hospitals, Rehabilitation Centre for Widows of Police personnel killed by terrorists and schools for orphans of police personnel killed by terrorists. Some of the items in the PM`s Package have a time frame of 5 to 10 years for implementation.

In addition, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion have in June, 2002 notified a `New Industrial Policy and other concessions for the State of J&K` which comprises incentives like capital investment subsidy, interest subsidy, insurance premium, income tax exemption etc.

In addition, various Central Ministries have been sanctioning projects and schemes from time to time which are applicable in J&K.

The State Government of J&K has a surrender policy for terrorists who have a change of heart and decide to surrender which inter-alia provides for training and assistance for availing of self-employment schemes/opportunities.

(c) Action has been initiated to implement all the schemes/projects included in the PM`s Package of May, 2002 which are regularly monitored by the concerned Central Ministries as well as Prime Minister`s Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs.